

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-21 are pending. Claims 1-21 stand rejected.

Section 102 Rejections

Claims 1, 3, 7, 8, 10, 14 and 17-20 have been rejected as being anticipated by Shimoda '345. Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is overcome for the reasons set forth below.

Claim 1 includes features which are not suggested by the cited reference, namely:

- . . . encoding means of dividing a luminescence signal and color-difference signals . . . into **macro blocks having a plurality of sub-macro blocks** . . .
- with use of any one of a **plurality of compression modes of which compression rate is different from each other,**
- **the total number of sub-macro blocks in each macro block are the same for all kinds of compression modes.**

As shown in Fig. 1, a luminescence signal and color difference signals are compressed using compression rates that are different from each other. For example, one compression rate is referred to as a standard mode and another compression rate is referred to as a high compression mode. Each mode has a compression rate that is different from each other. For each compression mode, the luminescence signal and the color difference signals are divided into macro blocks. For example, in the standard mode, eight macro blocks are formed. Similarly, in the high compression mode, eight macro blocks are also formed.

As also recited in claim 1, the **total number of sub-macro blocks formed from each macro block are the same regardless of the kind of compression mode.** This is shown as each macro block in Figure 1 having 77 bytes. These 77 bytes are formed of eight sub-macro blocks. In the standard mode, eight sub-macro blocks are formed. Similarly, in the high compression mode, eight sub-macro blocks are also formed for each macro block.

Shimoda '345, on the other hand, discloses an inter-frame compression mode and an intra-frame compression mode, which is a commonly used technique in MPEG compression. Shimoda '345 does **not** disclose an encoding means for **dividing** a luminescence signal and color difference signals into **macro blocks, in which sub-macro blocks are formed for each macro block**. In addition, Shimoda '345 does **not** disclose that the **total number of sub-macro blocks that are formed for each macro block are the same regardless of the kind of compression mode used**. The compression modes referred to by Shimoda '345, at column 3, lines 30-40, and at column 15, lines 45-59, refer to inter-frame compression and intra-frame compression modes, which are not related to compression of luminescence and color difference signals. Thus, Shimoda '345 does **not** disclose sub-macro blocks of each macro block having a **total number** that is the same regardless of the kind of compression mode used for compressing luminescence and color difference signals. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim 3 includes the following features:

- encoding means of dividing a luminescence signal and color-difference signals into units of macro blocks having a **plurality of sub-macro blocks** . . .
- placing means of placing encoded data into **sync blocks, each having a predetermined number of sub-sync blocks** . . .
- . . . the **sub-sync block** of the color-difference signal **of red color** is **different** from that for the **sub-sync block** of the color-difference signal of **blue color**.

The features of claim 3 are shown, for example, in Figure 1. As shown, each macro block is placed into a sync block each having a predetermined number of sub-sync blocks (shown on the bottom of Figure 1). Furthermore, claim 3 recites that the **sub-sync block for the color difference signal of a red color is different from that for the sub-sync block of the color difference signal of a blue color**. As shown, the sync block of the standard mode in Figure 1 and the sync block of the high compression mode in Figure 1, show a sub-sync block of Cr of ten bytes and a sub-sync block of Cb of eight bytes. As such, the sub-sync block for the color red may be made different from the sub-sync block of the color blue.

Figures 3, 9(c) and (d) of Shimoda '345, referred to by the Office Action, disclose macro blocks for luminescence signals and color difference signals each having a predetermined and

fixed assignment of codes. These predetermined and fixed assignment of codes are conventional techniques. Shimoda '345 does **not** disclose features of claim 3 of means that assign codes to each of the sub-sync blocks, **so that the sub-sync block of a red color has a code that is different from that of the sub-sync block of a blue color.**

The features and advantages of the invention, as recited in claim 3, includes rearranging the assignment of codes to each sub-sync block. Shimoda '345, on the other hand, does **not** suggest such features. Reconsideration is respectfully requested for claim 3.

Although not the same, claims 8 and 10 include features similar to claims 1 and 3, respectively. These claims are, therefore, not subject to rejection in view of the cited reference for the same reasons set forth for claims 1 and 3. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim 17 includes the following features:

- selecting one of the **first and second compression modes**;
- forming multiple macro blocks . . . in which each macro block includes a predetermined number of blocks, **the number of blocks of the compression mode selected . . . being the same as the number of blocks of the other compression mode . . .**

Claim 17 also includes features similar to claim 1, and specifically recites a first and second compression mode. Claim 17 further recites forming a predetermined number of blocks for each compression mode, where the number of blocks are the same between the first and the second compression modes.

As previously discussed, the recited reference does not suggest different compression modes in which the predetermined number of blocks for a first compression mode is the same as the predetermined number of blocks for a second compression mode. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 4-7, 9, 11-16 and 18-21 depend, respectively, from independent claims 1, 3, 8, 10 and 17. These dependent claims are not subject to rejection in view of the cited reference for at least the same reasons set forth for claims 1 and 3. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

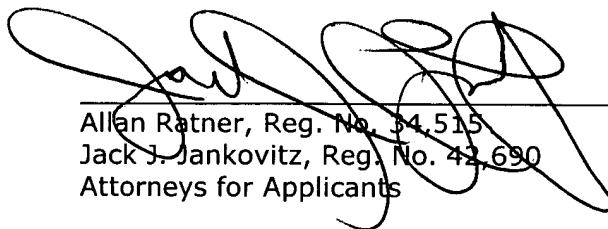
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Conclusion

Claims 1-21 are in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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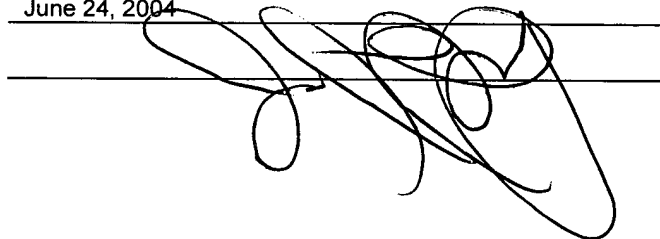
Dated: June 24, 2004

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